

TOWN OF IPSWICH  
MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Meeting of Tuesday, January 20, 2015,  
Ipswich Town Hall, 25 Green Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Tuesday, JANUARY 20, 2015 at 7 PM in Selectmen's Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Chairman. Craft called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM  
Selectmen present: William Craft, Chair; Judy Field; Nishan Mootafian and Charles Surpitski.  
Also present: Robin Crosbie, Town Manager  
Not present: Shirley Berry  
The open meeting was recorded, with permission, by Ipswich Access Community Media.

Public Information:

Agenda --Packet  
Consent Agenda  
Minutes – January 5, 2015  
Employee Status

**Announcements**

**Citizen's Queries**

**Deb Logan 197 County Road:** She would appreciate big shoulders on the roads to allow bikers to enjoy all that Ipswich has to offer for bikers.

**Linebrook Road Project Update**

Rick Clark DPW Department, Bill Ross New England Civil Engineering appeared before the Board to discuss the Linebrook Rd project. Mr. Ross went through a PowerPoint presentation. One of the problems with Linebrook Rd is that the width varies throughout out length of the road. The drainage system on Linebrook is in need of repair, there are structural problems with some of the existing pipes. Mr. Ross then went through the costs of replacing the drainage system. The full width to add sidewalks could not be feasible within the budget so the road is not going to be widened substantially. Mr. Ross went through the cost of adding the sidewalks to the road and the options available. Mr. Craft would like to know the scheduling, if it takes a year to do the new drainage system, is there a way to make the road safe to drive and not a complete disaster until the completion. Mr. Ross went through the options on how to keep the road drivable during the construction which he included in the price. Mr. Surpitski would like to know how the safety is impacted for the three different options presented. Mr. Ross explained that with this road, it is impossible to put the legal bike lane in, but that the best scenario for safety is the 13 foot width. Mr. Craft wondered what category road Linebrook fell into for a travel, Mr. Ross explained it's considered a scenic road. The most dangerous part of the road cannot really be corrected due to the wetlands that are around that area. Mr. Mootafian wanted confirmation that the recommendation from Mr. Ross was 12 foot road, with Option A sidewalk or a 13 foot road with option A sidewalk. Option A is just filling in the gap between School St and Washington Street for sidewalks. Mrs. Crosbie explained that we are looking into using extra Chapter 9 money as part of this project, and would like to know if this is a factor that the Board could consider in this project. Mr. Clark said it was, and he thought it was a good

idea. Mr. Ross explained that the moving of the utility poles would take up to a year because of all the paperwork and other utilities work together to move it.

**Glenn Gibbs, Planning Director**, was involved with the discussions and wanted to say that he comes it down to just do sidewalks where they are already existing is because it is considerable expense to extend it all the way out. From an engineering standpoint there is no safety concerns to extend the sidewalks all the way out if that route is chosen, except for the wetlands further out could make this more difficult. He feels that the roads at 12 feet would be safe, and possible to make safe at the width.

**Heidi Paek, 2 5<sup>th</sup> Street**, Would like to remind everyone that people voted for this project, and that's how this came to be. Her impression is that pedestrian and bicycle riders are being a bit short shifted in this. The public was led to believe sidewalks would be created the entire length of the road and feels this part of the project is essential. Her question is what is the cost standalone for the Doyon School and the option B standalone cost for the sidewalks all the way to Doyon School. It was confirmed it was \$200,000 for the parking lot. Alternative three does not seem appropriate for the road, and wonders if there could be another option considered. And this new alternative should include a sidewalk all the way from Doyon to Howe Street.

**Brian Hone, 20 Upper River Road**. After time on the Planning Board he felt that a narrower road was safer, and he felt that that road is frightening as it is now. People speed far too much on that road. The question of use upsets him, students do not walk to Doyon because there are no sidewalks to allow them to walk to school. The use of this road includes two schools, Marini's, a major cycling artery and the ball fields. He hopes that the obligation of providing non-automotive transportation is considered for this road. Also, was wondering the process that town should be expected to go through, what Boards will hear this proposal. Mr. Craft said he knows that ConsCom will have to be involved, and he feels there will need to be a lot of time for citizen's inquiry because frontage will be changing for houses out there.

Glen Gibbs confirmed that the Planning Board will be asked at the next meeting to review and make comments on the project.

**John Kerry, 203 Linebrook Road**, has concerns that mile lane eastward is completely falling apart. As long as we have trucks going up and down the road it will continue to fall apart. It needs to be looked into.

**Anne Reynolds** would have been wonderful to have her children walk to school, because there are no options to walk to school but she could not allow them to do that.

**Phil Goguen, King Fisher Road**. The presentation was very good, but in his mind this process should have been done before town meeting. He feels that it passed because there wasn't enough vetting on the project. Now that at this point, he's hearing references to Jeffrey Neck road and feels this should be different. He feels the process is being circumvented, he feels there are too many loose ends. The school parking lot is \$200,000 alone and he feels it should be considered to put crushed stone in there to save money. He feels how this project came about is not right.

Mr. Craft said it came up at multiple town meetings, and was voted on. He said we would not be where we are with the project if it was not voted on by the taxpayers. He is concerned that it will take two full years to be completed, he feels we should shoot for this time frame being worst case scenario. Mr. Surpitski was wondering if we had looked into any grants to get the sidewalks. He feels the sidewalks would be used if they existed and thought maybe there could be a second phase of the project to add the sidewalks to that area if we can get a grant. MR. Craft offers his opinion on the project, likes the idea of the 10 ½ feet wide, 1 ½ foot shoulders and the sidewalks from Washington street to Doyon. Mr. Surpitski

is looking at A and B. Ms. Field would prefer that the road be as narrow as possible to decrease the speed and have the sidewalks the length of the road.

### **Executive Agreement to Relocate Drain Easement at 7 Bullseye Road**

Attorney Jim Kroesser, representing the property owner appeared before the Board. There is an old drain easement that runs through Paula and John Gray's property. There has never been a drain line there, the purpose is to ask that the town sign an agreement to an easement that where the drain was going to go, and where it ended up so that the owners can replace their septic tank.

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to agree to the easement, Ms. Field seconded and it was unanimous to do so.*

### **FY'2016 Budget Overview**

This is the Town Manager's proposal of the budget to the BOS for the FY16. Mrs. Crosbie then went over in detail a PowerPoint presentation. The new governor has shared a goal that he would like to increase local aid, but Mrs. Crosbie is not sure we should bet on that this year but should watch it very closely. Mr. Craft had a question about how these areas compare to other years. Mrs. Crosbie said there is a revenue spreadsheet that will be added to the budget book this year. New growth this year is \$270,200 and \$180,200 increase in local revenue. She would like to point out that the building permit revenue trend which is very high, and that is up by 200% from 2 years ago. This is something they are trying to track, to see if approved plans actually get built to capture the new growth. Mr. Surpitski wondered when the assistant living facility would have been included, Mrs. Crosbie confirmed it is the year we are in so it is already captured. Mr. Surpitski would like to see a memo on how Essex Aggie and the state funds work. Mrs. Crosbie said that there is an assessment Ipswich is challenging, in the enabling legislation said if there is a successor agency that agency will be responsible for all employee retirement costs or the commonwealth will be. Ipswich has an assessment of \$44,000 for retirement benefits for Essex Aggie. Mrs. Crosbie went to Brad Hill, upset about this and North Shore was billed, and they refused to pay. So this is currently in a back and forth. Mr. Craft wondered about the decrease in Legal Service, Mrs. Crosbie explained there was some problems in years past that seem resolved. Mr. Surpitski wondered if other communities had similar increases for the health insurance costs. Mrs. Crosbie said these are preliminary numbers and that the company just gave us these groups will increase this much. She is not sure about other communities. Mrs. Crosbie explained that the town needed a Planner that could prepare bylaws and do a community development plan. So this year, the position vacated by the associate Planner would now be a Senior Planner. Mr. Gibbs will now focus almost exclusively on economic development. For Public Safety the Police Chief is looking into raising the mooring fees due to long term capital funding plans. There is an increase in Green Grab reduction efforts because of how this predator is causing problems in the area. For public works there are clean water standards for storm water that the town must meet over town, there will need to be discussion on how this will affect the town, it will cost a lot of money. Mr. Craft was wondering about the lack of public toilets in town, he wondered where we would have the conversation about adding them. Mrs. Crosbie said where it goes is not very important, its priority needs to be figured out. Mr. Craft asked about Veterans affairs, Mrs. Crosbie said Ipswich is good to veterans, and there are public housing and many programs available to them. The summary of the budget is that this is a balanced budget. Mr. Craft said the initial overview has been very helpful on what the priorities are and what we are trying to accomplish.

### **Board & Committee Appointments**

**Shellfish Sub-Committee.** Mr. Surpitski said there was some confusion on term limits, in order to be safe he recommends that members be reappointed that have served the Board well. There were two people who could not be contacted but attempts are still being made. Elizabeth Kilcoyne has decided to step down. She has been a great contributor and her service should be recognized. Mr. Surpitski was also included in being reappointed to the Shellfish Sub-Committee.

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to accept the reappointments, Mrs. Field seconded and it was unanimous to do so.*

**Council on Aging: Diane Mitchell be reappointed to the Council on Aging**

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to reappoint and Mrs. Field seconded and it was unanimous to do so.*

**Lifetime Shellfish-Kenneth A. Crossman 21 Bush Hill Road**

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to reappoint and Mrs. Field seconded and it was unanimous to do so.*

**Consent Agenda**

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the consent agenda, Ms. Field seconded and it was unanimous to do so.*

- a) Sidewalk Blocking—14 Central St. Jan 21-30<sup>th</sup>

**Minutes –January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to accept the minutes of January 5, 2015, Mr. Surpitski seconded and it was unanimous to do so.*

**Old Business**

Mr. Craft explained that committees are starting to look at policy about allowing people who live outside of town being allowed to work on committees and this is in the works.

**Adjournment**

*Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to adjourn at 8:36, Ms. Field seconded and it was unanimous to do so.*

Respectfully submitted by  
Jennifer Dionne  
1.27.15